

Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ADP-00 /009 R

DRAFTED BY CU/ AF: EMSOUTHWICK: DRG

4/6/73 EXT. 28068

APPROVED BY CU/ AF: OWROBERTS

CU/ IAP: WWBOEHM (SUBSTANCE)

AF/ P: JPOPE

AF/ C: JPARKER

CU: CRUNYON (SUBSTANCE)

----- 006885

R 062148 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

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E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: EDX: TRAVEL OF CAR BASKETBALL TEAM TO US

REF: BANGUI 378

1. MCGREGOR' S PROPOSAL ORGANIZE CAR BASKETBALL TOUR IN US, FOR WHICH HE WOULD RETAIN RECEIPTS WHILE CU CONTRIBUTED TRAVEL MONEY, APPEARS UNAUTHORIZABLE UNDER MUTUAL EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE ACT, WHICH SPECIFIES PARTICIPATION IN US- FUNDED EXCHANGES BY GROUPS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES MUST BE " IN NON- PROFIT ACTIVITIES." SEE SECTION 102 (A)(2)(IV). THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THIS TOUR INTENDED BE NON- PROFIT, AND WE ASSUME PREVIOUS EUROPEAN TOURS WERE COMMERICAL VENTURES. EVEN ON NON- PROFIT BASIS, PROJECT WOULD IN EFFECT BE A REVERSE CULTURAL PRESENTATION FOR WHICH PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION NATIONAL INTEREST NECESSARY.

2. WE NEVERTHELESS AGREE BASKETBALL TOUR HERE COULD BENEFIT BILATERAL RELATIONS. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE ARRANGED PRIVATELY OR BY THE CAR, WITH CLOSE INVOLVEMENT OF CAR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. TO HELP
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AVERT PROBLEMS IT IS HIGHLY DESIREABLE THAT TOUR BE COORDINATED WITH A RESPONSIBLE US ORGANIZATION INVOLVED IN ATHLETIC EXCHANGES. JAMES FOX, BASKETBALL ADMINISTRATOR OF THE AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION (AAU), WOULD BE THE PROPER CONTACT. THE AAU'S ADDRESS IS 3400 WEST 86 TH STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46208.

3. FYI: FROM FOX AND OTHERS WE BELIEVE THAT UNLESS PROPERLY ARRANGED, VISIT OF CAR TEAM COULD PROVE EMBARRASSING FOR ALL CONCERNED. AFRICAN BASKETBALL HAS SIMPLY NOT PROGRESSED TO THE POINT WHERE IT MEETS AVERAGE US COLLEGIATE STANDARD. SCHEDULING TEAM WITH DESIRABLE OPPONENTS MIGHT THEREFORE BE DIFFICULT, ESPECIALLY WHEN US TEAMS ARE GEARING UP FOR SEASON'S COMPETITION. IN ANY EVENT, TO SAVE EXPENSES FOX SUGGESTS THAT CAR TEAM SHOULD CONFINE ITS ITINERARY TO RELATIVELY SMALL AREA OF US, SUCH AS TWO OR THREE STATES IN THE SOUTHEAST.

4. IF MCGREGOR PURSUES HIS PROPOSAL, YOU MIGHT ENCOURAGE ARRANGEMENTS PARA 2 AND OFFER LIMITED FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE WITH CAUTION AS THERE COULD WELL BE DIFFICULTIES AS SPELLED OUT ABOVE. WHEN DIFFICULTIES ARISE, GOVERNMENTS INVARIABLY TURN TO USG RATHER THAN SPONSOR TO SET THINGS RIGHT.

5. DECONTROL 4/6/74. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE064261
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EMSOUTHWICK: DRG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730436/aaaahwg.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 BANGUI 378
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08-Jan-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <22 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971209
Subject: EDX: TRAVEL OF CAR BASKETBALL TEAM TO US
TAGS: SCUL
To: BANGUI
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005